



# LIBYA HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL

September 2023



**Women's Peace &  
Humanitarian Fund**

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership

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## Background

On 10 September northeastern Libya was hit with devastating rains and flash floods. The catastrophic consequences for the affected people and infrastructure are unprecedented. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that over 880,000 people, including 440,000 women, in five provinces (Mantikas) have been directly affected by Storm Daniel.<sup>1</sup> Derna is reported to be the most affected location due to collapse of dams that have caused major devastation, with around 30 percent of the city disappearing as a result. As of 19 September, almost 4,000 people have died according to the World Health Organization, over 10,000 are missing, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 40,000 have been displaced.<sup>2</sup> Main critical humanitarian needs that have been identified include emergency health services, food and nutrition assistance, mental health and psychosocial support and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) particularly for women and girls and vulnerable groups such as migrants, refugees, IDPs, people with disabilities, and children, among others.<sup>3</sup>

Before the disaster, the country had already suffered years of conflict, political instability and insecurity, and a deteriorated socioeconomic situation. The current crisis further exacerbates an already difficult humanitarian situation. Whereas discrimination against women and girls in all areas of life, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) as well as GBV were already highly prevalent in Libya prior to this disaster, now women and girls are even further exposed while on the move, displaced in temporary shelters and deprived of basic needs.<sup>4</sup>

Since the 2011 revolution, women and young women have been at the forefront and instrumental to the development of the new Libyan civil society. When the conflict erupted in 2014, significant progress has been achieved for women and girls' rights, and their organizations working on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action.<sup>6</sup> However, over the past few years, the state of women's rights has heavily deteriorated, and the civil society space has shrunk extensively. From femicides and GBV, to targeting and

detention of women politicians, peacebuilders, journalists, humanitarians and activists, protection risks have particularly increased for women leaders and those who take on public roles. Despite the ceasefire in 2020, the volatile political climate of Libya makes providing support challenging, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups of women and hard-to-reach communities. Despite having shown strong leadership, women-led organizations, in particular those led by young women, are severely underrepresented in humanitarian action, and have been systematically excluded from decision making spaces.

Given that the combined effects of crises in Libya are disproportionately affecting women's and girls' safety and security, access to emergency services and humanitarian assistance, and their participation in crisis response, it is critical that local women and their organizations form part of the humanitarian response to ensure gender-inclusive and sustainable responses to the current needs.

## WPHF's Emergency Funding Appeal: USD 3.5 million

In this context, the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) is launching an urgent funding appeal for up to USD 3.5 million to support local women's organizations' leadership in responding to the floods and resulting devastation. This is to ensure that women on the frontlines lead in humanitarian initiatives throughout the entire crisis response and strengthen gender responsive humanitarian planning, frameworks and programming, as well as ensuring safety and security for women and girls. The following WPHF impact areas have been identified as priority needs:

- ▶ **WPHF Outcome 3** (Humanitarian & Crisis Response): Enhanced participation and leadership of women in planning and responding to humanitarian crises.
- ▶ **WPHF Outcome 5** (Protection): Enhancing the safety, security and mental health of women and girls and their human rights respected.

WPHF's emergency response in Libya consists in rapidly channeling funding to pre-identified local women CSOs on the ground (phase 1), followed by an open Call for Proposals (phase 2) to mobilize women's organizations that can respond to the crisis and the needs of women and girls:

#### **Emergency Call for Proposals (Phase 1) – USD 1.5M**

WPHF will allocate funding through a targeted (closed) Call for Proposals focused on WPHF Outcome 3 and 5 to pre-identified local women's organizations. The selection of organizations will be undertaken together with UN Women as UN Management Entity for the WPHF in Libya. The UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator will be responsible for review and approval of projects, as per the WPHF Emergency Track.

#### **Regular Call for Proposals (phase 2) – USD 2M**

With additional funding (of a minimum of 1,000,000 USD), an open Call for Proposals under the WPHF's Regular Funding Cycle standard rules and procedures will be launched. This will allow organizations that were not pre-identified to apply.

National and local women-led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, will be eligible for this emergency funding. Grassroots and local community-based organizations will particularly be encouraged to apply, including those in consortiums.

The Call for Proposals will make available financing for civil society organizations that build the resilience of Libyan women and girls through programmatic funding from 30,000 to 200,000 USD, and institutional funding to help sustain and strengthen women's organizations throughout the crisis with grants from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD.

### **Management Arrangements**

As per WPHF procedures, the Call for Proposals will be prepared and launched by the WPHF Secretariat, detailing the nature and scope of the funding as well as types of interventions that are encouraged, in close coordination with the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator. The WPHF

Secretariat will conduct the technical review of all proposals received and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (for phase 1) and the WPHF National Steering Committee (phase 2) will be responsible for the final selection of proposals.

The WPHF Secretariat, together with the UN Management Entity will ensure quality monitoring and reporting on projects as well as linkages with partners and programmes from the UN, civil society, networks of women, and member states. The organizations selected through the Call for Proposals will also be included in WPHF's Community of Practice to learn from and exchange best practices with other WPHF partners.



### **References**

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, 2023, [Libya Flood response Flash Appeal, Sept 2023 - Dec 2023 \(Issued September 2023\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, 2023, [Libya: Flood update Flash Update No.5 \(19 September 2023\) \(as of 4pm local time\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> See 1.

<sup>4</sup> UNFPA, 2023, [UNFPA Libya Flood Response Situation Report #1 - 15 September 2023](#)

<sup>5</sup> OCHA, [Libya Humanitarian Overview 2023 \(December 2022\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> IPI, 2023, [Full, Equal, Meaningful, and Safe: Creating Enabling Environments for Women's Participation in Libya.](#)

### **About WPHF**

The United Nations Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) mobilizes critical support for local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action. WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism supporting quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has funded over 1,000 local women's organizations working to support women to be a force for crisis response and lasting peace in 42 countries. In addition, WPHF has supported the participation and the protection of over 220 women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders in 17 countries.